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the mesophyll, which, he says, protects the leaf from further harm by cold and serves by retaining the water (ceded later to the stems) to facilitate the development of buds in spring!

The most voluminous morphological paper is one by BUSCALIONI and TRAVERSO on the morphological evolution of the flower in relation to the chromatic evolution of the perianth. They seek to show that the evolution of floral coloration is neither due merely to insect relations nor is it monophyletic. At least two lines are recognized, one characterized by the dominance of the xanthic series, the other by the cyanic. "Internal causes" primarily, then insect visits and "other factors," have been the agents in modifying the first flowers, which they assume to have been anemophilous—an assumption that needs defense. Of course "inherent causes" is simply a confession of defeat. HENSLOW'S theory (1893) came to their attention only after part of the work was printed; his book on *The origin of floral structures* is critically discussed in an appendix, and his theory mildly approved.

The volume closes with official reports of the work of the Royal Cryptogamic Laboratory of the Institute in 1904 and 1905. They show that it is doing good service for the country and the various researches indicate the activity and energy of the staff.—C. R. B.

Progress of botany

In the second part of the first volume of this admirable series, CZAPEK gives a résumé of the progress of our knowledge of the nutrition of plants since the publication of the first volume of PFEFFER'S *Physiologie*.³ By his interpretation *Ernährungsphysiologie* covers even more than our blanket-word metabolism; for he discusses the mechanics of 'all the exchanges of material between the plant and the outer world, and the movement of water and foods within it, as well as the synthesis of foods, their assimilation, the non-plastic products, the ash constituents, enzymes and cytotoxins, respiration, and fermentation.

To do this within 114 pages would not be possible, were it not that the author can refer in many places to the summary already prepared in his *Biochemie der Pflanzen*. It must be remembered that a reporter sees things from a particular angle, and while we cannot always approve the point of view occupied by this author in surveying the field of research, we do recognize his synopsis as comprehensive and complete. It is especially useful in its inclusion of investigations carried on in eastern and southeastern Europe, that unfortunately are too often overlooked by the more western peoples, either through carelessness or unfamiliarity with the Slavic languages.

So much is included in CZAPEK'S summary that would hardly be expected even from the topics named, that it behooves every physiologist to read this paper and have it at hand for reference.—C. R. B.

³ CZAPEK, FRIEDRICH, Die Ernährungsphysiologie der Pflanzen seit 1896. *Progressus Rei Botanicae* (ed. J. P. LOTSY) 1:417-532. Leipzig: Gustav Fischer. 1907. Per volume, M 18.